

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 06 October 2023 09:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 140-23 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-140-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 12 September 2023.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

Based on your recent Cyber vulnerabilities and that you have conceded such a significant breach, please provide details on how much money you've spend on cyber resiliency solutions in the following years (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019). Whilst I appreciate you may not wish to disclose what solutions you've purchased &/or the suppliers you've procured with, basic procurement amounts spent on cyber security measures can surely be provided.

For clarification, I would like to know the bespoke cyber security spend and not that which comes as standard as part of other software or technology solutions and licences.

for example, you may have M365 but this is different to the £xxx you've spent on a 'privileged access solution' or 'threat detection software' etc.

I would like to know what financial investment your government organisation has made, in the years highlighted, to ensure it remains cyber resilient, and therefore I can compare that amount to other agencies' spend.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The Electoral Commission has only recently started to hold budget codes for cyber security as a separate entity since our move to a new Finance system. Whilst the Commission had security solutions in place these were reported within the main budget line and therefore cannot be separated.

We also need to highlight that our financial year runs from April to March and therefore we cannot respond per year as requested but provide details based on financial years.

2019/20 – We did not hold a separate budget line for cyber security for this financial year.

2020/21 – We did not hold a separate budget line for cyber security for the financial year.

2021/22 - £43,963.45

2022/23 - £153,889.37

2023/24 – We will not know total spend until May 2024 once the budget has been closed.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request>.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

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The Electoral Commission
[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)